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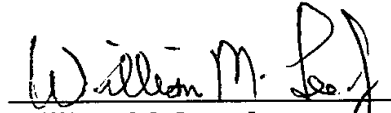
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The International Application reaches the conclusion that claims 1 through 16 (now claims 17 through 35) meet the requirements of novelty and inventive step (non-obviousness). A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report is appended hereto, for convenience. It is submitted that the same result should occur in the United States.

Examination of the application on its merits is awaited.

January 15, 1998

Respectfully submitted,



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